

The Alexandria Gazette.

VOLUME LXIV.

ALEXANDRIA, VA., THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 16, 1863.

NUMBER 91.

PUBLISHED (DAILY) BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN, JR.
OFFICE—No. 104 King street, over
tone's, (formerly French's) Book Store.

WAR NEWS.—The Confederates have appeared in large force near Suffolk, Va. It appears that the Federal troops who have been guarding the passes of the Blackwater have fallen back to this point, where the other forces are concentrating. Some skirmishing occurred on Saturday last, as previously reported, but no general engagement is immediately expected unless the battle is offered by the Federal forces. The Confederates, under Gen. Wise, it is reported, are engaged in throwing up entrenchments above Williamsburg, and have designs on Fort Magruder. Richmond papers give currency to the rumors that the town was occupied by the Confederates on Saturday last, the Federal troops retiring to the fort.

Rumors were in circulation in Washington yesterday that the Confederates had again appeared in the Valley of Virginia, and on Tuesday sent a cavalry force to Charlestown, and advanced a detachment on a reconnoissance to Harper's Ferry and Martinsburg. This report comes by a deserter and is doubted altogether.

It is said that private advices received from Gen. Foster down to Saturday last represent that he had plenty of supplies, and that he believed he could hold out for three weeks, if necessary.

Advices from the Southwest published in the dispatches to the Southern journals report that fifty three Federal gunboats went up the Coldwater river on Friday last. They destroyed a three-gun iron-clad at the mouth of the Amite. The Federal forces in Black Bayou, Louisiana, are reported to be retreating. Thirty transports and twelve gunboats have gone up from Memphis to operate on the Cumberland. Admiral Farragut is reported to be blockading the mouth of the Red River.

Charleston dispatches to the Richmond papers state that a steamer from Nassau ran the blockade and entered the port on Friday last. On Saturday night another attempted to run in but was so closely pursued by the blockaders that the captain ran her ashore and burned her.

On Friday last a skirmish occurred near Fort Donelson, in which twenty Confederates were taken prisoners.

Private advices from the Gulf report that the larger portion of the Federal forces have left Baton Rouge.

A Confederate account of the Charleston fight claims that Fort Sumter sustained no damage in the conflict.

We learn from the Port Royal correspondence of the Philadelphia Press under date of 11th, that:—"The Monitor fleet, with the exception of the Montauk and Passaic, will now proceed to New Orleans, and thence up the Mississippi, to the vicinity of Vicksburg. The Ericsson, which brought a large cargo of torpedoes for Capt. Ericsson's newly-invented raft, or 'devil-fish,' will go to Fortress Monroe and discharge it." The same writer, in another part of his letter says:—"Yesterday a body of rebels crossed over to Folly Island from the mainland, captured thirty of our troops, and moved off before they could be intercepted."

The Memphis Bullentin says it has news that a week ago Sunday, a battle of some magnitude took place between the Federals, under McClernand, and the Confederates, in small force, at or near Richmond, Louisiana. The Confederates fell back. This move placed McClernand in possession of the town. The brigade then marched to Lagrange, and occupied it without difficulty.

Rumors from Washington.

The Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger furnishes the following:

Private advices from the Gulf bring information that the larger portion of our forces have left Baton Rouge, but a sufficient number of troops have doubtless been retained to insure the safety of the city from any sudden attack that might be made against it.

I hear that a letter was received from Admiral Dupont, a few weeks since, or just prior to the recent attack upon the forts, in which he expressed himself most emphatically against any hope of a successful issue, but that he would run the hazard, providing the order of the Navy Department was persisted in. As no dispatch countermanding the order was forwarded to the admiral, he crossed the bar when the tide served and opened the attack, with what result is already known.

It is reported, on what is considered good authority, that the War Department will decide against the consolidation of the old regiments in General Hooker's army, but will order a draft to fill the ranks at an early day.

The announcement that Gen. Lee is in command of the Confederates threatening Foster is undoubtedly erroneous, as he was quite recently heard from in his old locality.

Jackson's movements or whereabouts are the subject of frequent inquiry, and from the long absence of intelligence from this wily chieftain it is feared that mischief in an unlooked-for quarter is brewing.

The total expenses of the efforts for the capture of Charleston are put down at the sum of \$150,000,000.

On Sunday evening last, at Plymouth Church, in Brooklyn, the N. Y. Post informs us that the Rev. Mr. Beecher led his congregation in the worship of God in the following manner:

When the pastor announced the results of a collection which had been taken up in the morning for the Children's Aid Society, he read a note left in the plate to the following effect:

"I am an Englishman; the superintendent of an anti-slavery school. I have stood up during the whole service, and no one has been polite enough to offer me a seat. Yet I inclose a half sovereign."

Without changing a muscle of his face, and with the utmost gravity, Mr. Beecher proceeded to say: "Hereafter I wish my congregation and the ushers to understand when they see an Englishman standing in the crowd who has been the superintendent of an anti-slavery Sabbath school, and who has a half sovereign in his pocket, they must give him a seat instantly."

A "HORRIFYING" BLUNDER.—There has been a frightful piece of scandal at Court. At the recent levee held by the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Wellington absolutely presented a convict, who was at large on a ticket of leave, and who actually came in contact, in one of the rooms in the palace, with Chief Baron Pollock who had tried, and sentenced him to penal servitude. The Duke has made no other apology than that he was not aware of the antecedents of his friend, but he found his social position so uncomfortable, in consequence of his terrible blunder, that he started off for the continent, where he still remains. After this we may almost forgive Mr. Dallas, for having, on a similar occasion presented the companions and chief supporters of a certain notorious American prize-fighter. He might have had a reasonable excuse, but the Duke could have had none. He should have known his man before endorsing his respectability in such a manner.

A special Washington despatch to the New York Evening Post states that there is no lack of faith in the Monitors at the U. S. Navy Department and among naval authorities there. On the contrary, the Monitors are proved to be in vulnerable to the heaviest guns. But no vessels, iron-clad or otherwise, can pass by Fort Sumter to within easy shelling distance of Charleston while the obstructions remain in the channel. Admiral Dupont needs something which can remove the obstructions before he can shell Charleston. Whether the attack will be soon renewed upon the defences of Charleston does not seem yet to be settled, but it is not probable that it can occur for some weeks.

The money which was stolen from the Paymaster's office in the Brooklyn navy-yard, N. Y., heretofore reported, was to have been used in paying off the employees in the yard on Monday. The clerks were engaged most of Sunday in making up the accounts, and when they left in the afternoon the money was in an iron box in the safe. There are three watchmen, whose sole duty it is to watch the building in which is the paymaster's office, and they stand four hour turns.

A woman named Phelan, just married, was murdered at Ellenville, in New York, on Thursday last, by one William Willis, who gave as the cause of his bloody act the nonfulfilment of a marriage engagement which had for some time existed between his victim and himself.

We have the official report of the withdrawal of the Federal troops from, and the burning of, Jacksonville, Fla. Col. Rust makes the statement that the fires were lit, some of them by secessionists. He admits that some buildings were fired by the Federal forces, but alleges a military necessity.

Twenty-three bushwhackers, belonging mostly to Porter's troops, have been tried by military commissions in Louisville, Ky., on the various charges of violating their oaths, horse stealing and murder, and sentenced to the Alton prison. One of them was condemned to be shot.

Judge Wm. F. Bullock, of Louisville, Ky., is spoken of as an independent candidate for the Governor of that State, in opposition to Hon. Joshua F. Bell, the nominee at the late State Convention.

U. S. District-Attorney Thomas J. Boynton has written a letter to Col. Jos. S. Morgan, commanding at Key West, "protesting in the strongest terms against Gen. Hunter's orders to transport the families of white persons residing within the limits of his command who have husbands, brother, or sons "in rebel employment" to the rebel lines, and declaring the said order illegal and unjust."

An order has been given to Gov. Andrew, from the U. S. War Department, to arm the colored regiments from Massachusetts with first-class arms. They are expected on in the course of a fortnight.